

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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29th September 2024 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CATECHESIS. THE PASSION FOR EVANGELIZATION: THE APOSTOLIC ZEAL OF THE BELIEVER. 30. EPHPHATHA, CHURCH, BE OPEN!

Today we will conclude the series dedicated to apostolic zeal, in which we have allowed the Word of God to inspire us, to help nurture a passion for the proclamation of the Gospel. And this involves every Christian. Let us consider the fact that in Baptism, the celebrant, touching the ears and the lips of the baptized, says: “May the Lord Jesus, who made the deaf hear and the mute speak, grant that you may soon receive his word and profess the faith”.

And we have heard the miracle of Jesus. The evangelist Mark goes to great lengths to describe where this took place: toward “the Sea of Galilee” (Mk 7:31). What do these two regions have in common? The fact that they were predominantly inhabited by pagans. They were not areas inhabited by Jews, but mostly by pagans. The disciples went out with Jesus, who can open the ears and the mouth, thus, the phenomenon of mutism, of deafness, which is also metaphorical in the Bible, signifying being closed to God’s calls. There is a physical deafness, but in the Bible, the one who is deaf to the Word of God is mute and does not communicate the Word of God.

There is another indicative sign: the Gospel reports Jesus’ decisive word in Aramaic. Ephphatha which means “be open”, may the ears be open, may the tongue be open. And it is an invitation that is addressed not so much to the deaf man, who could not hear him, but precisely to the disciples of that time and of every age. We too, who have received the ephphatha of the Spirit in Baptism, are called to be open. “Be open”, Jesus says to every believer and to his Church be open because the Gospel message needs you to witness it and proclaim it! And this makes us also think about the attitude of Christians: Christians must be open to the Word of God and service to others. Christians who are closed up always end up badly because they are not Christians. They are ideologists of closure. A Christian must be open to the proclamation of the Word, and to welcoming brothers and sisters. And this is why ephphatha, this “be open” is an invitation to us all to open ourselves.

Even at the end of the Gospel, Jesus entrusts us with his missionary desire: go beyond, go to tend, go preach the Gospel. Brothers, sisters, let us all feel called, as baptized people, to witness and proclaim Jesus. And let us ask for the grace, as Church, to bring about a pastoral

and missionary conversion. On the banks of the Sea of Galilee, the Lord asked Peter if he loved him and then asked him to tend his sheep (cf. vv. 15-17). Let us too ask ourselves. Let each one of us ask ourselves this question, let us ask ourselves: Do I truly love the Lord to the point of wanting to proclaim him? Do I want to become his witness or am I content to be his disciple? Do I take to heart the people I meet, bringing them to Jesus in prayer? Do I want to do something so that the joy of the Gospel, which has transformed my life, may make their lives more beautiful? Let us think about this, let us think about these questions and go forward with our witness.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK			
Sunday	26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish 11am Brian Kane	SP OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>			
Monday	Saint Jerome	9am Hector MacPhee R.I.P.	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>			
Tuesday	Saint Therese of Liseux	9:30am John Pearson R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!</i>			
Wednesday	Guardian Angels	9am Susan Edwards R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Ferial		
Friday	Saint Francis of Assisi	9:30am Michael Small	SP
Saturday	Saint Maria Faustina		
Sunday	27^h SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish 11am Billy Boylan R.I.P.	SP OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Irene Fortune, Fr Febin Thomas CMI, Canon Philip Moor, Mgr Peter Walton, Fr Bernard Forshaw, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Rob Creer, Michael Coughlan, Eileen & Julia Ward, Philip Smith, Clare McElroy, Theresa Denny & Eileen Boylan

Those who have died

Fr Alban Greenwood, Fr George Malecki, John Ellis, Susan Edwards & Ellen Stewart

OUR PARISH VISION & MISSION

We are a warm & welcoming community of faith rooted in the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Belonging is at the heart of what we do as members of the body of Christ. We believe worship is not just found in prayer, it's something expressed in everything we do.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2024

For a shared Mission that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a synodal lifestyle, as a sign of coresponsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission among priests, religious and lay people.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

This week the lamp burns for Johnny Jones (Birthday R.I.P.) at Our Lady's and Chris Fenna at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION TUESDAYS resume slightly later than planned on the *new date* Tuesday 8th October when we will begin exploring the Second Vatican council, its place within the history of the Church & the lead up to it. We will explore the document, "Dei Verbum" afterwards.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC - For anyone who has been baptised as a Catholic, as a member of another Christian community or never been baptised at all, we will be running the Catholicism course with our next meeting on Monday 7th October at 6pm in the presbytery.

BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS will be held at the Carmelite monastery in Birkenhead TODAY at 3pm. The Benediction will include a preached sermon & readings from the life of Saint Therese.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2024 - Collection envelopes & prayer cards are included with your newsletter today.

HEALING & ANOINTING SERVICE at Saint John's Church, New Ferry, on Friday 4th October at 7pm.

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE MASS at Saint Peter's Church, (Green Lane, Hazel Grove SK7 4EA) next Sunday October 6th, at 2.30 PM. Celebrant Fr Pat Munroe. This will be a shorter, more relaxed service, Makaton supported, with sensory activities and low-level music to support anyone with sensory needs and those who just enjoy the atmosphere. All welcome. For more information contact inclusionstpeters@gmail.com

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025 - After a successful & prayerful pilgrimage this year the dates for next year are out now, *SAVE THE DATE!*

By air: Friday 25th July - Thursday 31st July / By coach: Thursday 24th July - Friday 1st August

Youth pilgrimage: Wednesday 23rd July - Friday 1st August

Our Young People from across the Diocese were amazing this year, they were prayerful, respectful & always cheerful even when sleep deprived! Hopefully we can bring many more of our young people especially from our Birkenhead parishes next year, watch this space!

STRONGER TOGETHER COMMUNITY GROUP empowers members to address daily life challenges in a supportive environment. Tuesday mornings (9:30am-12pm) in Saint Joseph's parish centre, North Road. The group is facilitated by Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury.

WIRRAL ARK FESTIVE OPEN DAY - on Monday 14th October 10am -2pm at 104 Woodside Business Park, Birkenhead CH41 1EP. Visit WIRRALARK.ORG.UK to buy on line.


FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FR ALBAN GREENWOOD - Father Alban's mortal remains will be received into Saint Patrick's Church, Wellington on Tuesday 1st October with a Vigil Mass at 7.00pm. Bishop Mark will offer the Requiem Mass on Wednesday 2nd October at 11.00am, followed by interment in Wellington Cemetery.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FR GEORGE MALECKI (former Parish Priest of Saint Pauls)

Fr George will be received into Holy Cross, Wotton-Under-Edge, at 7pm on Wednesday 9th October at a vigil Mass. After the Mass Fr George will be taken to rest at Christ the King, Thornbury, his requiem Mass will be held there the next day, Thursday 10th October at 11am, followed by interment in Thornbury Cemetery. There will be light refreshments in the hall after the Requiem Mass.

CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD? - Have you considered a vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? For more information see shrewsburyvocations.org If you would like to explore God's call for your life and learn about other opportunities for discernment, please email the vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

PLANNING A PARTY OR A CELEBRATION AFTER A BAPTISM, A WEDDING, OR A FUNERAL?
Our Lady's parish centre is available to hire for all family occasions with food available on request. Contact Linda for bookings on 07971501345.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PARISH FINANCE - 22nd September 2024</u> Offertory £1016.80 cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £2 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £22. <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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STANDING ORDERS - You can set a standing order up through your online banking or via the form which is available from the parish office. If you are a UK taxpayer, please gift aid these payments.

EASY FUNDRAISING - Please support our Parish on Easy Fundraising - you can raise **FREE** donations when you shop online at over 6000 retailers (inc. car & home insurance). Thank you to everyone who supports our parish by using Easy Fundraising. ***Our latest payout was £52.60***

BONUS BALL SCHEME - No-one won in the draw held on 21st September with no. 56. A list of available numbers to buy are at the back of each church and speak to Carol at Saint Paul's or anyone at the back of Our Lady's church to join.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK - To support this year's **WIRRAL FOODBANK HARVEST** donations are required & can be left at the back of Saint Paul's or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady's. ***The foodbank is URGENTLY in need of Tinned tomatoes, fruit, vegetables, meat, jam, deodorant & washing up liquid.***

TABLET BLISTER PACKS - please donate used ones to support the Marie Curie charity.

STAMPS - The stamps are sent off to the RNIB to support their work with those suffering sight loss. There is a box at the back of church for any used stamps you have.

GLASSES - Please donate any old glasses to support the work of the Eye Fund. Boxes for donations are at the back of each church.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY

Due to the promotion of a highly respected Headteacher, there is an opportunity for an inspirational, resilient and dedicated Catholic leader to be the next Headteacher of St Werburgh's Catholic Primary and Nursery School. Visits to our school are warmly welcomed. Please telephone Cheryl Gardner at the school office on 0151 647 8404 to arrange this. Closing date: Monday 14th October 2024 at 10am. Shortlisting date: Tuesday 15th October 2024. Interview Dates: Tuesday, 22nd October

2024. Applications should be sent to Julie English Julie.English@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. Further details can be found on the Diocesan website <https://educationshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>